

REMARKS

At the outset, applicants note that in the telephone interview of May 24, 2007, as indicated in the Interview Summary, the Examiner requested a new substitute specification and resending of the IDS of October 22, 1993, and submitted herewith is the IDS together with a substitute specification and marked up copy. Applicants submit that the substitute specification does not contain new matter.

In light of the Examiner's indication that claims 22 - 33 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, by the present amendment, claims 23 and 24 have been written in independent form incorporating the features of base claim 17 and any intervening claim therein, with such claims being previously dependent upon independent claim 17 or dependent claim 18, so that claim 18 has been retained in dependent form, and amended to depend from claim 23 or 24, which have been written in independent form. By the present amendment, claims 17 and 34, the only other previous independent claims in this application have been canceled by the present amendment, objected to claims 23 and 24 have been written in independent form and all other claims depend from claim 23 or 24, where appropriate. Therefore, applicants submit that all claims present in this application should now be in condition for allowance.

As to the rejection of claims 17 - 22 and 34 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuo et al (US Patent No. 5,666,133 in view of Kimura et al (US Patent No. 5,253,091), applicants submit that such rejection has been obviated by the cancellation of independent claims 17 and 34 and the rewriting of claims 23 and 24 in independent form with all other claims depending directly or indirectly from


claims 23 or 24. Accordingly, a discussion of the cited art is considered unnecessary.

In view of the above amendments and remarks and the submission of the substitute specification and IDS, applicants submit that this application should now be in condition for allowance and issuance of an action of a favorable nature is courteously solicited.

To the extent necessary, applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case: 503.32492VX1), and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments